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West Germany: Bonn is taking steps to discourage other Arab countries from following up Iraq's recognition of East Germany.

A West Germany emissary visited Syria and Egypt last week, and another is now in Algeria. A special delegation from the Bundestag is to visit Cairo around 1 June.

The West Germans presumably are stressing Bonn's continuing strong opposition to any upgrading of the Ulbricht regime. They may be offering certain economic inducements as well. Initial talks with the Syrians and Egyptians appear somewhat encouraging from Bonn's standpoint, but the positions of these governments on the recognition issue are subject to sudden change.

Apart from this immediate challenge, Bonn is concerned over the growing indications that Moscow is using developments in international law to create conditions more favorable to the acceptance of East Germany. Reflecting this concern, Bonn has raised an objection to a clause in the US draft seabeds treaty which would entitle "all states" to accede to the pact. The West Germans say that the US formula would offer East Germany, as a treaty signatory, a chance to lay claim to increased international standing, and--in the wake of Iraq's and Cambodia's recognition--might encourage recognition by other countries.

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NOTES

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USSR: In response to US efforts to get agreement on the long-standing question of enlarging the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee before its recess begins on 23 May, Moscow has proposed that, for the time being, only Japan and Mongolia be added. The Soviets doubtless see Japanese membership as facilitating Tokyo's signature of the Nonproliferation Treaty. Moscow may believe that should Japan sign, other key holdouts such as West Germany and Israel would find the pressure on them increased.

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